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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/840,225	05/07/2004	Hong-Chi Chen	4658-021	9671
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PERKINS COIE LLP			HASAN, SYED Y	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/840,225	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHEN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> SYED Y. HASAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### **Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 December 2007*.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 13 and 15 - 20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 13 and 15 - 20 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### **Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### **Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### **Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/06)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3 - 5, 9, 13, 15 - 20 filed on 12/21/2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 15 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takihara (6941387) in view of related art of Takihara.

Regarding **claim 1**, Takihara discloses a modularized system (fig 1, displays a modularized system) for reading from and/or writing to optical media (fig 1, 3, MO – Optical module, col 8, lines 3 –10) the system comprising:

a playing device configured to engage with two or more modular components (fig 1, col 7, line 48 – col 8, line 22, illustrates modular components)

a first modular component (fig 1, 4, DVD player for playing, and 5, CD-R for recording) configured to engage with the playing device (fig 1, 1 PC Module as playing device) , the first modular component including a housing and an optical reading and/or writing device at least partially disposed within the housing (col 7, line 20 to col 8, line

22) the reading and/or writing device being operably coupled with the playing device when the first modular component is engaged with the playing device (col 7, line 20 to col 8, line 22) and

a second modular component (fig 1, 2, MPEG 1 Video Deck) configured to engage with the playing device, the second modular component having a memory that stores an encoding and/or decoding program operable by the playing device to write to and/or read from optical media at the first modular component (fig 1, 2, holds Encoder 21 and decoder 22)

However Takihara does not disclose specifically the second modular component that stores an encoding and/or decoding program

On the other hand the related art mentioned in Takihara teaches the second modular component that stores an encoding and/or decoding program (fig 30, 291, col 2, lines 14 – 26)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the second modular component that stores an encoding and/or decoding program as taught by the related art of Takihara in the system of Takihara in order to provide a detachable medium with independent functionality.

Regarding **claim 3**, Takihara discloses wherein the optical reading and/or writing device includes is-a CD and/or DVD drive (fig 1, 5, CD – R drive and 4, DVD drive)

Regarding **claim 4**, Takihara discloses wherein the second modular component includes an decoding module is a MPEG encoder and/or decoder (see claim 1 above)

Regarding **claim 15**, Takihara discloses wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via an IEEE 1394 based communication link (fig 1, 7, col 7, lines 48 - 61)

Regarding **claim 16**, Takihara discloses wherein the first modular component is operably coupled with the playing device via a universal serial bus (USB) link (fig 4, col 9, lines 11 – 29)

Regarding **claim 18**, Takihara discloses wherein the first and second modular components are configured to read from and/or write to the optical media in a data format that includes at least one of CD-ROM, CD-RW, DVD-ROM, DVD-RW, DVD-Audio, and SACD (see claim 1 and fig 1, 5 CD –R, 4, DVD)

Regarding **claim 19**, Takihara discloses wherein the means for optically reading and/or writing comprises a first means for optically reading and/or writing, and wherein the device further comprises a third modular component including a second means for optically reading and/or writing operably coupled with the means for storing the encoding and/or decoding program when the playing unit is engaged with the second and third modular components (see claim 1, fig 1, DVD, CD-R and MD Module and fig 30, 291, Encoder and Decoder module)

**Claim 17** rejected based on claim 1 above

**Claim 20** rejected based on claim 19 above.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takihara (6941387) in view of related art of Takihara and further in view of Okada et al (2001/0043799)

Regarding **claim 5**, Takihara discloses wherein the playing device outputs one or more signals decoded by the second modular component, the one or more signals

being readable by an audio and/or video device (see claim 1 above) said display facility is a monitor operably coupled with the playing device (fig 1, 11, col 7, lines 47 – 61, monitor)

However Takihara and the related art of Takihara does not disclose the display facility is a television.

On the other hand Okada et al teaches the display facility is a television (figure 16, 72, para 0380, tv monitor)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the display facility is a television as taught by Okada et al in the system of Takihara and the related art of Takihara in order to record television broadcasts.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takihara (6941387) in view of related art of Takihara and further in view of Chen (2004/0264943)

Regarding **claim 9**, wherein the first modular component engages with the playing device (see claim 1 above)

However Takihara and the related art of Takihara does not disclose a top side of the playing device

On the other hand Chen teaches a top side of the playing device (fig 1, page 2, para 0024)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a top side of the playing device as taught by Chen in

the system of Takihara and the related art of Takihara in order to avoid clumsy wire connections.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takihara (6941387) in view of related art of Takihara and further in view of Whitted (7113409)

Regarding **claim 13**, Takihara discloses further comprising a third modular component configured to engage with the first modular component, wherein the third modular component is operably coupled with the playing device upon the first modular component (fig 1, 6, MD Drive Module)

However Takihara and the related art of Takihara does not disclose a stacked arrangement for the modules

On the other hand Whitted teaches a stacked arrangement for the modules (fig 1, col 3, lines 35 – 44)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a stacked arrangement for the modules as taught by Whitted in the system of Takihara and the related art of Takihara in order to facilitate fast and easy installation and/or removal of components.

#### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

Morinaga et al (US 6792000) discloses a data processing apparatus and data processing method and recording medium.

Saeki (US 6597862) discloses an apparatus and method for recording data.

Casaza (US 6150925) discloses a connecting devices to in-car personal computer.

Werner et al (US 6767253) discloses a media-component docking system

Obitsu (US 6996731) discloses a method and apparatus for controlling a supply of power in an electronic apparatus using a combination of plurality of detachable units.

Schweidler et al (US 6618832) discloses a method and bus interface employing a memory in an integrated circuit which is used to link a bus with an application device to be controlled by the bus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Y. Hasan whose telephone number is 571-270-1082. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/8/5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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S. Y. H.  
03/13/2008

/Thai Tran/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621